

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) A storage container comprising:

a bag made of a flexible material and configured to store a substance, the bag including a fold along which the bag deforms into a predetermined shape and reduces in volume due to any one of when external pressure is applied to the bag, when internal pressure of the bag reduces, or when volume of the stored substance is reduced, the bag having an opening at a lower portion thereof through which the stored substance exits the bag; and
a sheet having a higher rigidity than the bag, the sheet being without folds and on a side of the bag which is perpendicular to the opening of the bag, the sheet including a plurality of at least one of recesses and holes which are arranged in a line on an outer peripheral surface, are configured to receive fingers of a user and are for gripping the storage container.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented) The storage container according to claim 13,
wherein

the bag is a polyhedral having at least three surfaces, and
the fold is formed so that one of the three surfaces on which the fold is formed is bent toward an inside of the bag.

Claim 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Previously Presented) The storage container according to claim 13,
wherein the at least one of recesses and holes comprise:

holes in the sheet that is provided on an outer peripheral surface of the bag or integral
with the bag.

Claim 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) The storage container according to claim 13,
wherein:

the sheet is configured to assist in deformation of the bag so that the bag is reduced in
volume by being bent along the fold.

Claim 19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Previously Presented) The storage container according to claim 13,
wherein

the bag includes two flat portions facing each other, and
the sheet is fixed to at least one of the two flat portions.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented) The storage container according to claim 13,
wherein

the sheet is provided on an outer peripheral surface of the bag.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented) The storage container according to claim 13,
wherein

the sheet is provided on a largest surface of the bag.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented) The storage container according to claim 13,
wherein

the sheet is configured so as not to deform the fold due to pressure exerted when a
user grasps the bag.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus that forms an image on
a recording material using a consumable substance, comprising:

a storage container that includes:

a bag made of a flexible material and configured to store a substance, the bag
including a fold along which the bag deforms into a predetermined shape and reduces
in volume due to any one of when external pressure is applied to the bag, when
internal pressure of the bag reduces, or when volume of the stored substance is
reduced, the bag having an opening at a lower portion thereof through which the
stored substance exits the bag; and

a sheet having a higher rigidity than the bag, the sheet being without folds and
on a side of the bag which is perpendicular to the opening of the bag, the sheet
including a plurality of at least one of recesses and holes which are arranged in a line
on an outer peripheral surface, are configured to receive fingers of a user, and are for
gripping the storage container.

Claim 25 (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the
consumable substance is a toner.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented) The storage container according to claim 13,
wherein the at least one of recesses and holes comprise:

holes which are in front of a continuous portion of the bag.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented) The storage container according to claim 26,
wherein:

the holes are configured to guide a user to a grasp position.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented) The storage container according to claim 27,
wherein:

the holes comprise at least four holes.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented) The storage container according to claim 27,
wherein:

the holes of the sheet consist of exactly eight holes, with four holes at one side of the
sheet and four holes at an opposite side of the sheet.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented) The storage container according to claim 13, further
comprising:

the substance which includes toner.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented) A storage container comprising:
a bag made of a flexible material and configured to store a substance, the bag
including a fold along which the bag deforms into a predetermined shape and reduces in
volume due to any one of when external pressure is applied to the bag, when internal pressure

of the bag reduces, or when volume of the stored substance is reduced, the bag having an opening at a lower portion thereof through which the stored substance exits the bag; and

a means for keeping the bag flat, the means having a higher rigidity than the bag, the means being without folds and on a side of the bag which is perpendicular to the opening of the bag, the means including a plurality of at least one of recesses and holes which are arranged in a line on an outer peripheral surface and are configured to receive fingers of a user and for gripping the storage container.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented) The storage container according to claim 31, further comprising:

the substance which includes toner.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended) The storage container according to claim 31, wherein:

the line has a shape of an arc.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 24, wherein:

the line has a shape of an arc.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented) The storage container according to claim 13, wherein

the line has a shape of an arc.